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**FTI Adakan
Pelatihan IT**

**Outlet Bakosurtanal
dan Pusat Survei Geologi**

UPN Tanam Pohon Pakel Emas di Gembira Loka

Informasi KAMPUS



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Pembukaan Diklat Awal Pegawai YKPP Angkatan IV di lapangan Dodik Bela Negara Rindam IV Diponegoro Magelang. (Foto Prabowo)

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National Indonesia Identity a New Path

Introduction It has been long time since the first time the term Indonesia being used. More than eighty years ago student and youth of Indonesia gathered and vowed on Indonesia. In spite of eighty years passed and sixty five years after declaration of Independence, people of Indonesia still curious about the Indonesia's and Indonesian identity. Some people from eastern part of Indonesia still questioning themselves are they Indonesian or not. This nation builds the identity through the history of colonization. The identity comes from the language which is Bahasa. Major religion in some case also comes as identity. Javanese largest population and its culture play the same role. There is also come the modernization and culture from western country. It is also comes with the idea of development. But after so many decades there were so many changes and the identity of Indonesia have to be rebuilt again.

Indonesia's Identity: Past Times

The major problem of many developing countries is creating a single identity. Most of developing nations rise from the political scrap of colonization. Many nations come as single country, or in the other side, single nations become many countries. The leftover of colonization then become a political burden of a new government. They created a constitution to assemble them together, but it replaced again and again. They try to rise a majority specification as an identity, but it comes to trouble for the minority. The term 'native people' is not really applied for Indonesian, since there are so many Chinese descendants. There are also some Indian descendants who are being afraid of controlling the economy of Indonesia. But when many of the native Indonesian

rejecting the two foreign descendants, they welcome the third descendants who come from Arab. It is because they have same religion which is Islam. Islam raise in Arab, Prophet Muhammad is Arabian, so in many of Indonesian people's mind; Arabic got a high status in community. So you cannot make a specification about the term descendants and native. Some of the minister of Indonesia are the form the descendants. Indonesia has had Kwik Kian Gie and Marie Elka Pangestu as Minister, but it has also Ali Alatas and Alwi Shihab.

Indonesia's identity also comes from the traditional culture such as Javanese. As the most populated ethnic in Indonesia, Javanese plays a significant role on creating the identity. Javanese language as the most spoken local language Indonesia plays significant role in politics. It is also determine your social class. Many of high rank officials in civil servant speak Javanese, in fact, for the personal conversation it is preferred to use Javanese language among official even if they are not Javanese people. The Javanese as identity comes along with the vocabulary of Bahasa, which is so many words come from Javanese language. This kind of identity also comes along with the Power of Suharto regimes, which is, whether you like it or not, also come with the current president.

The identity of Suharto's regimes seems a lot different with his predecessor. When Sukarno held the power, the identity of Indonesia seems to a mix of Islamism, traditional culture, and nationalism. Sukarno always appears in public with the *kopiah* or *peci*, the hat of Muslim. Suharto only uses *peci* in a formal photograph only, and some official state ceremony. The vocabulary that Sukarno use in his speech

always come from Bahasa, Dutch terms, and Sumatranese or Malay vocabulary. Suharto in the other side, preferred a new term form English and Javanese language. Considering all state officials will do the same, absolutely it was a shift of identity that comes from power.

Modernization, Development and Localism

Javanese culture as identity also invites another identity to come, which is localism. Localism spread in Indonesia after the toppled down of Suharto regimes. Under the decentralization Law, all the provinces in Indonesia has its own power to run the people at some extends. They can make some variation for the local law to strengthen the identities. Local person is preferred at some official jobs in the province. Scholarship is given only for the native local people. Local language is said has to be preserved. So, local language is taught again in elementary school and used formally in some cultural event. Rising this identity, everybody said is to be part of Indonesian cultural heritage as a whole. It is a part of nation itself. Being local is being Indonesian that is the motto of the group who support this idea.

In the other side, being modern is also can be said to be Indonesian. Along with the idea of development Indonesian get along with global culture. When the city becomes modern, so will the citizens. And as a following situation, all Indonesian people who live in the city (especially a big city) will have the same identity. They use same kind of suit. Use a modern vehicle. Build a minimalist house. Watch a Hollywood movie. Go to the mall. Spend some time at spa or café. And speak some words in English. This is the new kind of Indonesian. But considering all the center of local government and also in capital is

a big city, the new identity then widely spread through all the area. Wipe all the district, sub district and villages. It is binding all the Indonesian together feeling very much the same one another. So when they travel from city to city in Indonesia they don't feel like goes to another country since they find peoples with the same identity.

New Indonesia is Indonesia with great development. Buildings, roads, apartments, malls, new industrial spots are everywhere. It is also accompanied with schools and universities. Internets are spread through all the villages even in remote locations. Is it the new identity Indonesia? One might say yes. Since economic are growing fast and everybody will curse to the laziness of Indonesian. You cannot do something for your nations if you're lazy. Indonesia only has diligent people. You're not Indonesian if you just stay around and thinking away without doing something. Hardworking people is Indonesian, the others are not. Economic growth will be the standard, so it doesn't matter whether you look like Chinese, Western or African as long as you can do something for the country. Perhaps you are descendant from so many nations or so many tribes in Indonesia, but working hard keeps you as Indonesian people.

Islam as an Identity

Talking about the identity, we must not forget Islam as the main part of Indonesian politics. Some groups in Indonesia insist that Indonesia is a kind of Muslim country, and the identity is Islam itself. Going on with the idea, applying Islamic law will be the support on identifying Indonesian people as Islamic people. In spite of being the largest Moslem country base on its populations, Indonesia does not apply an Islamic Law. The Law in Indonesia can be traced to the time of colonialism in Indonesia, which is come from Netherland. On the other side Islam also cannot be a single identity of its people. Spreading from Aceh down to Moluccas and Papua,

there are so many groups inside. Some groups rejecting a single Islam, neither they identify themselves as Islam. Being Indonesian or Javanese or other Acehnese is a lot easier than being a Muslim, an Islamic people. Mean while other groups try to strengthen the Muslim identity. They believe the only one group that creates this nation was the Muslim group itself, so it has to be refreshed to create a single nation without compelling the minority inside.

The problem is there are so many groups in Islam itself. We'll find different kind of Islam if we go to Aceh and then go to Java. Even in Java we'll find different kind of Islamic Identity in northern part and southern part. Muslim in Aceh already adapted Islamic Law, just like some of the Arabian countries. Woman is not allowed going to the street without using jilbab. Violator for some law sentenced with public whipped. Bank and financial company should be based Islamic law. Many others system in Aceh also based on Sharia, the Islamic Law.

It is a lot different than a Moslem in Java, even more in southern part of Java. Traditional ceremonies are welcome. Jilbab is not a must. Some woman prefers show her hair and dress up with *kebaya* and *sanggul*, a traditional dress and hairstyle. In Yogyakarta and Surakarta we can see some Javanese old culture ceremonies as *Larung*, *Sekaten*, and much more in wedding ritual. Meanwhile in the northern part of Java Muslim do some dzikr ritual, which in many part of other are rejected. Modern Muslim in Java do not perform dzikr ritual together, they believe it should be conduct individually. Traditional Muslim in northern Java prefer dress in *Sarung* and *Peci*, while more moderate Muslim in southern part prefer using pants without hat in dressing.

Regarding Islamic Identity in Indonesia, we will realize there are so many Muslim groups in Indonesia and each one bring their own identity. Islamic Defense

Front (Front Pembela Islam) or FPI is so much different with Liberal Islamic Network (Jaringan Islam Liberal) or JIL. FPI is very hard on applying values and Islamic Law, while JIL is in the other side. Between them there are also so many Muslim groups that have its own identity and its own value. All of them claim to be Muslim and a truly Prophet Muhammad followers. There are also the two biggest Muslim organizations in Indonesia, which are Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama or NU. Members of Muhammadiyah and NU clearly show that they are different one another. Muhammadiyah goes with the formal education, while NU sticks with the *Pesantren*, a traditional school system of Islam in Indonesia.

Conclusion

Being Indonesian can be part of Indonesia's identity, but the identity itself has to be saved. The old identity of Indonesian cannot be preserved anymore, so all the people and also the government have to be ready to the new identity. Problems arise because there's no such single identity that can be accepted by Indonesian right now. Older identity which we find in Sukarno's and Suharto's regimes cannot be accepted by Indonesian people anymore. Localism, development and modernization are new ideas that arise for identity. And it is already happen in many cities and provinces in Indonesia. In the other side, Islam also seems to come to be identity of Indonesia, but since there are so many groups in Islam, it is a little bit difficult to identify the Islam identity itself. Therefore Indonesia still has many options for the National identity, and the new path will be determined by the more accepted identity which already started to arise. *

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